

Docket 03280088AA  
Serial No.: 10/658,712

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#### REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for a telephonic call on July 12, 2005, during which the Examiner indicated that the claims in the application are allowable besides claims 9 and 10. The Examiner stated that the limitation related to "a different level member attached to the orifice surface, ...", taken out by the previous amendment from claims 9 and 10, related to the distinguishable feature of the present invention and should be restored in the claims 9 and 10 in order to obtain allowance.

The Applicant respectfully submits that an essential feature of the present invention is creating a powerful spiraling current by asymmetrically attaching a sucking hole to an orifice surface. In order to create this powerful spiral-shaped suction flow, the suction hole is positioned in such a way that the suction hole does not contact the nozzle orifice but forms an asymmetrical gap about the nozzle orifice. According to the claimed invention, this asymmetrical gap can be provided in two ways: if an orifice has an uneven surface (shown by Figures 5 and 6) or if a suction tube tilted with respect to an orifice surface or has a tip end cut in a slant (see Figure 8). In order to provide an unevenness of the orifice surface, the present invention uses the electrode/ink reception member 11, which forms a step on the orifice surface, providing an asymmetrical gap of the suction hole during cleaning. The case when the suction tube is tilted with respect to the orifice surface is shown in Figure 8. Figure 8 shows an asymmetrical gap at the orifice surface created by tilting. Additionally, the asymmetrical gap can be created by cutting a tip end of a suction hole member in a slant. Summarizing the above, asymmetry in attachment achieved in three ways are reflected by the different claims which are dependent from claim 10 : 1) by making an orifice surface uneven e.g. adding a different level member (Claim 22), 2) by tilting a suction hole member with respect to the orifice surface (Claim 23, currently added) and 3) by cutting a suction hole member end in a slant (Claim 24, currently added). The support for currently added claims 23 and 24 is provided in at least Figure 8, and

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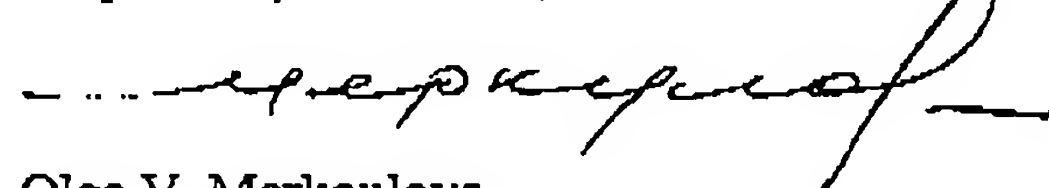
page 4 to 11, page 23 of the specification. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the different level member is not always necessary to create a spiraling current that performs both of purging the nozzle and wiping around the nozzle. For example, when the suction hole member is slanted with respect to the orifice surface such as shown in Figure 8, a gap that air flows into is created. The spiraling current is created due to the gap. As such, the different level member is not essential in creating the spiral current.

In order to emphasize this fact the new claims 23 and 24 have been added by the present amendment. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1 to 24 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041 (Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.).

Respectfully submitted,



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